

'OLD FAVOURITES' BACK TO TEST OUT ALTRINCHAM

WYCOMBE WANDERERS supporters could well see the return of three old favourites tomorrow (Saturday) when the Blues take on crack Northerners Altrincham at Loakes Park.

Skipper John Delaney, 'keeper John Maskell and leading goalscorer last term Keith Searle are all available — the latter having recovered from a knee injury sustained in training.

There is a slight doubt over Maskell who has been suffering from a carbuncle but standing by is Kevin O'Brien who was between the sticks in the Wanderers 2-1 friendly defeat at Waterlooville last week.

GOODBYE

Only certain absentees from last season are England men Ted Powell from defence and Micky Mellows from attack. Ted is currently settling down to his new role as player-coach of Kingstonian, while Micky will be playing continental soccer each week as an amateur for Belgian League professionals, Ostend (full story appeared in Mid-week).

Of the 1971-72 squad, Robb Williams, John Hutchinson, Tony Horseman, Paul Birdseye, Ian Rundle, Derek Gamblin, Dave Bullock and Kevin O'Brien figured in the comparatively makeshift line up at Waterlooville.

So too did Gerry Olsen (last year a regular with Maidenhead) and Bernie Bremer (who quit Wycombe early last term to join Kingstonian, but has been back training with the Wanderers squad.)

The 12 was completed by emergency stand-ins Chris Costin and Burnham's Jeff Banks.

Altrincham manager Roy Rees is expected to include several of his 1971 Amateur Cup winning Skelmersdale squad when he brings his new Northern charges to Loakes Park tomorrow.

MEMORIES

Among them, Peter Frankish — star goalkeeper, whose inclusion in the Skems' 3-0 quarter final triumph at Loakes Park that season prompted Wanderers to protest, unsuccessfully, to the F.A. Stan Allan, Alan Wolfe and Andy Windsor also played.

John Owens, a British Universities representative, and John Unsworth, member of the 1967 beaten Amateur Cup final side, are also former Skem players. Unsworth is a close season capture from Lancaster City.

Other members of Altrincham's squad:

WYNN DICKEN — former Welsh amateur international goalkeeper from Elesmere Port; DAVE MOBLEY — brother of Sheffield Wednesday's Vic; DOUG COUTTS — ex-Wigan Athletic; MIAN COLE — Rochdale centre back in his fourth season with Altrincham; BOBBY TODD — ex-Liverpool and Workington signed for "substantial" fee from Wigan Athletic; GRAHAM HARRISON — former manager and first player in the team, signed from local football; JOHN COOKE — former Silsby Rovers midfield star, whose transfer involved him in a F.A. dispute at the time; BILLY MONEY — club's top international reckoning; TONY BROADHEAD — ex-Bangor and Macclesfield striker; and ERIC SHREEVE — striker recently signed for a "big fee" from South Liverpool.

Third and last in Wycombe's series of pre-season friendlies is the visit of Southern League Bedford to Loakes Park on Tuesday night (7.30 p.m.)

Only after that will the situation be a little clearer as to the look of the Wanderers line-up for the opening Isthmian League match at home to Dulwich Hamlet on Saturday, August 12.

Marlow goalkeeper Ron Seary comes into the side tomorrow (Saturday) for their second friendly against Isthmian Leaguers Hayes at the Alfred Davies Memorial Ground.

Seary, back from holiday, replaces Dave Wigley. Missing from Marlow this year is another goalkeeper Paul Ianson who is likely to rejoin his local club Ruislip Manor again.

HONEYMOON

Coach Mike Hall expects winger Paul Kurka to be back from honeymoon but newcomer John Reyner will be away with Sunday Combination outfit Lawood on tour to Swansea. Reyner, who played for Wycombe United last term, made an immediate impression by scoring Marlow's fourth goal against Wallingford last week, coming on as second half substitute.

The Hayes v Marlow match last year was significant for the signing of Keith Searle to the Church Road club from Wycombe Wanderers. However Searle returned to Wanderers later in the season.

Princes Risborough, who have signed up brothers Jeff and Jack Carter from Monks Risborough, open their first team programme tomorrow, when they entertain crack Hellenic League Premier Division side Thame United at Windsor Playing Fields.

Risborough player manager Colyn Makepeace's hopes of luring back such players as Brian Lewis, Dick Ives and Chris Wilkins appear to have failed and he must now concentrate on the material he had last season plus one or two additions.

BROTHERLY TRIO

The Carters join another brother, Neil, at Risborough, and will strengthen the forward line. But Town are still looking for a player to help out Dick Caterer at the back. Tomorrow's game should certainly prove a test of their capabilities.

Burnham, last year's Hellenic League Division One Cup winners, appear to have few problems as they face another season in that division. University bound Richard Brown is the only departure and there are already two players set to take over his full-back position.

One of them is county youth player Jeff Banks, who represented Wycombe Wanderers in a friendly at Waterlooville on Saturday. The other is former Windsor and Eton defender Chris Jenkins — Burnham's only new signing to date.

Ironically Burnham travel to play the Royalists in their friendly tomorrow, while the following Tuesday they have an attractive looking fixture away to Isthmian League side, Hayes.